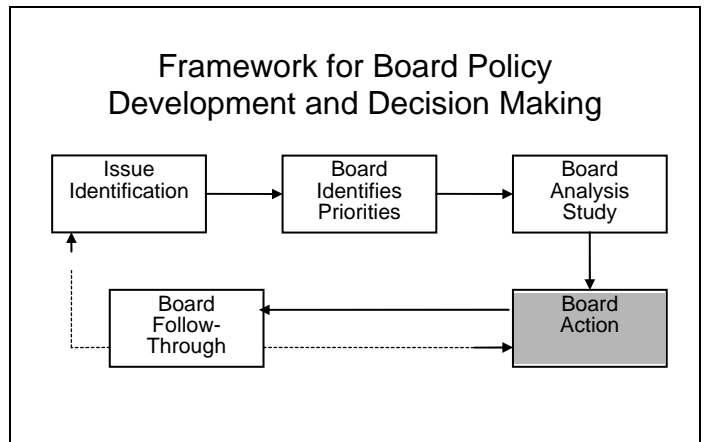


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

July 9, 2008



Agenda Item: Request for General Accreditation Status - Willowwind School

Iowa Goal: All K-12 students will achieve at a high level.

Equity Impact Statement: 281 IAC 12.5(8) requires that each school and school district incorporate multicultural and gender fair goals for the educational program into its comprehensive school improvement plan.

Presenter: Consent Agenda

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the request to grant general accreditation status to Willowwind School, located in Iowa City, Iowa, for grades K-6.

Background: Willowwind School has provided evidence of general accreditation requirements pursuant to Iowa Code 281—IAC 12.5(3) and 12.5(4), including the following:

- Enrollment data by race, national origin, gender, and disability
- Required school board policies, including adoption date, review date and revision dates within the past five years
- School calendar (180 days of instruction)
- Elementary program (i.e., all required content areas and required content specifications were verified)
- Curriculum documents and materials verifying standards and benchmarks for all curricular areas, including the incorporation of multi-cultural/gender fair approaches, global education, and career education into the educational program)
- Professional development
- School Improvement Advisory Committee
- Personnel files
- Employee health files
- Student records (i.e., permanent and cumulative records)

- The school has provided a written, signed letter from the local fire marshal that the school's facilities meet required codes.
- Julie Melcher, DE School Improvement Consultant, visited the school March 31 and May 27 and 28, 2008, and verified the aforementioned.

Future Plans of Willowwind School: Willowwind School includes grades 7 and 8 which currently hold no accreditation status with the State of Iowa. The school is considering whether or not to pursue general accreditation status for grades 7 and 8.



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

DATE: July 9, 2008

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Judy Jeffrey, Director

SUBJECT: Request for Accreditation Approval, Willowwind School, Grades K-6

I recommend that the State Board of Education approve the request for accreditation of Willowwind School, grades K-6, located at 950 Dover Street, Iowa City, Iowa, 52245.

Willowwind School received an initial visit on March 31, 2008 from Julie Melcher. The school was offered feedback and worked toward meeting compliance for accreditation.

A formal accreditation visit occurred May 27 and 28, 2008. Interviews were conducted with the principal, Board of Education, instructional staff, students, and the School Improvement Advisory Committee including parents. The 2007-2008 Document Review Checklist for Nonpublic Schools was used. The school has satisfied the compliance requirements, submitted a Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, and an Annual Progress Report.

Now that requirements have been completed, it is requested that this matter be approved by the State Board of Education.